

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC REACTION ON DUMPING, COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTIONS

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 8440

B. EC BRUSSELS 8476

C. GENEVA 7281

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH FIELDING THE RESULTS OF THE ARTICLE 113
COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND THE COMMISSION'S PLANS IN REGARD TO EC
COMPLAINTS ABOUT US INVESTIGATIONS UNDER THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW,
THE ANTI-DUMPING LAW, ETC. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT THE DIS-
CUSSION IN THE 113 COMMITTEE HAS GIVEN IT A CLEARER MANDATE THAN THE
SOURCES CITED IN REFTEL A FELT. PRIOR TO THE 113 DISCUSSION, THE
COMMISSION'S PAPER HAD BEEN CIRCULATED AMONG COMMISSIONERS AND HAD
RECEIVED APPROVAL EITHER FROM COMMISSIONERS OR FROM THEIR REPRESENTA-
TIVES. CONSEQUENTLY, THOUGH FRANCE FINALLY JOINED THE EIGHT AND THE
COMMISSION IN AGREEING THAT IT WAS NOT NOW NECESSARY TO REFER THESE
ISSUES TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT
IT IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CLEAR ON EVERY APPROPRIATE OCCASION THE
EC'S CONCERN RE THE DANGERS INHERENT IN ANY US RESTRICTIVE
TRADE MEASURES. THE FIRST EXAMPLE WAS THE COMMISSION'S
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STATEMENT ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 22 ON THE COUNTERVAILING

DUTY INVESTIGATION ON STEEL. AS WE REPORTED IN REFTEL B, THE COMMISSION WILL BE DELIVERING AN AIDE MEMOIRE LATER THIS WEEK ON THE ANTI-DUMPING COMPLAINT ON AUTOMOBILES. THERE WILL BE SUBSEQUENT NOTES ON OTHER ISSUES AS NECESSARY, PROBABLY INCLUDING THE ARTICLE 301 COMPLAINT ON EGG ALBUMEN. THESE NOTES AND PRESS RELEASES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WILL CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THE GENERAL PROBLEM FOR TRADE POLICY WHICH THE EC SEES IN THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THE US MEASURES.

2. THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES RECOGNIZED IN THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE THAT SO FAR NOTHING HAS HAPPENED AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON SPECIFIC CASES. NEVERTHELESS, THEY AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A DRADUATED SERIES OF WARNINGS TO THE US ABOUT THE DRIFT OF EVENTS. GUNDELACH, HIJZEN AND RABOT HAVE ALREADY MADE SOME OF THESE POINTS IN THEIR VISITS TO WASHINGTON. SOAMES WILL MAKE SIMILAR POINTS AT CABINET LEVEL IN NOVEMBER. (THIS APPROACH WILL BE IN NOVEMBER AT THE US/EC SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS UNLESS THERE IS SOME REASON WHICH CALLS FOR AN EARLIER APPROACH.) THE 113 COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION WILL ON PRESENT PLANS TAKE STOCK AFTER NOVEMBER TO SEE IF OTHER ACTION IS NEEDED. THE COMMUNITY WILL ALSO TAKE PARALLEL ACTION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (THE GATT) TO WARN THE UNITED STATES OF THE DANGERS STEMMING FROM THE SERIES OF PENDING CASES. (HIJZEN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THE COMMISSION WILL EXPRESS ITS "WORRIES" NOT ONLY IN THE GATT BUT ALSO IN THE OECD. THOUGH IT WILL NOT TRY TO BE DRAMATIC, IT BELIEVES SOME EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IS WARRANTED IN BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.)

3. IN ADDITION, THE 13 COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE IN OCTOBER AFTER SOAMES RETURNS FROM LATIN AMERICA. GREENWALD

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